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1. **Modular synchronization in distributed, multiversion databases: version control control**

Agrawal, D.; Sengupta, S.;  
Knowledge and Data Engineering, IEEE Transactions on  
Volume 5, Issue 1, Feb. 1993 Page(s):126 - 137

**Abstract:**

A version control mechanism is proposed that enhances the modularity and extensibility of concurrency control algorithms. The multiversion algorithms are decoupled into two control and concurrency control. This permits modular development of multiversion protocols that simplifies the task of proving the correctness of these protocols. A set of procedures is described that defines the interface with the version control component. It is shown that the interface can be used by the database actions of both two-phase locking and time-stamp control protocols to access multiversion data. An interesting feature of the framework is that execution of read-only transactions becomes completely independent of the underlying control implementation. Unlike other multiversion algorithms, read-only transactions do not modify any version-related information, and therefore do not interfere with the execution of other transactions. The extension of the multiversion algorithms to a distributed environment is simple.

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[Richard Hull, Managing semantic heterogeneity in databases: a theoretical prospective, Proceedings of the sixteenth ACM SIGACT-SIGMOD-SIGART symposium on Principles of database systems, p.51-61, May 11-15, 1997, Tucson, Arizona, United States](#)

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**↑ ABSTRACT**





A remote backup database system tracks the state of a primary system, taking over transaction processing when disaster hits the primary site. The primary and backup sites are physically isolated so that failures at one site are unlikely to propagate to the other. For correctness, the execution schedule at the backup must be equivalent to that at the primary. When the primary and backup sites contain a single processor, it is easy to achieve this property. However, this is harder to do when each site contains multiple processors and sites are connected via multiple communication lines. We present an efficient transaction processing mechanism for multiprocessor systems that guarantees this and other important properties. We also present a database initialization algorithm that copies the database to a backup site while transactions are being processed.

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↳ **H.2.4 Systems**

↳ **Subjects:** Transaction processing

↳ **H.2.7 Database Administration**



↳ **Subjects:** Logging and recovery

**General Terms:**

Algorithms, Reliability

**Keywords:**

database initialization, hot spare, hot standby, remote backup

↑ **REVIEW**

"Peter John Trueman"

Two multicomputer systems are linked by multiple communication paths, and each has a partitioned relational database. The primary system processes the database transactions, and the other acts as a hot-standby that will take over the processing in the event of the primary system failing. This paper describes the decentralized algorithm used to ensure that the backup system's database is up to date and consistent. The algorithm is intended for use in applications that have a lot of transactions and need a quick response time. So, rather than use an expensive two-phase commit protocol to ensure that a transaction atomically updates both systems, the transaction simply commits and then propagates to the backup. This means that when the primary fails, some committed transactions may be lost and others may have to be discarded to maintain consistency; for example, if the transaction that created a bank account is lost, updating that account would be wrong. This risk is deemed to be economically acceptable given the performance requirement; if the consequences of a lost transaction are high, however, it is possible to use an atomic commit over both systems. After some good background and introductory sections, the paper defines what it means for the backup system to be consistent, and then describes how the backup system is initialized and updated, and argues that this process results in a consistent backup. Although the paper is lengthy, it is not too long; it is well structured and clear. The reader who wants just as much information as can be easily remembered can read the first ten pages, leaving the rest for the serious student. The paper is well worth reading. [\*Online Computing Reviews Service\*](#)

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